

COAL-FIRED POWER STATION

The invention relates to a coal-fired power plant or station having a boiler that can be heated by a dry firing, and with a flue gas channel that adjoins the boiler and that leads to a catalytic converter for reducing the NO_x level.

During dry firings, the ash is produced as dry dust that is partially withdrawn at the bottom out of the combustion chamber, but also is partially carried along by the flue gas stream. The catalytic converter for reducing the NO_x level comprises packings of narrow channels, and the carried-along dust has the tendency to accumulate on the catalyzer surfaces. This leads to the channel walls increasingly losing their catalytic effect. One is therefore forced to clean off the catalytic converters frequently with the use of soot blowers or also by the use of ultrasound. However, it was found that nevertheless the tendency existed for the catalyzer channels to become obstructed or clogged, and in particular in such a way that the obstructions could no longer be eliminated with conventional means.

In addition to a reduction of the catalytic effect, the pressure loss was increased due to the reduction of the flow cross-section. Similar obstruction effects were observed on the downstream air preheater,

which operates in a regenerative manner. The pressure loss can become so great that the electrostatic filter, which is disposed downstream of the air pre-heater, reaches its limit of stability or resistance due to the induced-draft blower that follows. This can cause the load of the power station to be reduced, a measure that is a disadvantage and in addition, of course, does not represent a permanent solution. Rather, sooner or later the power station must be shut down in order to replace the clogged catalytic converters. However, even in the disassembled state elimination of the obstructions is not very practicable.

It is therefore an object of the invention to be able to protect the catalytic converter for reducing the NO_x level against such obstructions in a simple and effective manner where such obstructions can no longer be eliminated with conventional means.

To realize this object, the inventive coal-fired power station is characterized by the features in patent claim 1.

The invention is based upon the recognition that as a function of the type of coal and of the temperature distribution within the combustion chamber, localized exceeding of the softening or sintering point can

occur. This leads to the originally dry, pulverous ash particles sticking together or even sintering together. Coarse ash particles result that although they enter the catalyzer channels, they can become caught there and together build up to form obstructions. The adhesion within the catalyzer channels is sufficient to preclude a cleaning with normal means. Theoretically, one could push through the individual channels, though not from a practical standpoint if one considers that the catalyzer channels each have a cross-section of an order of magnitude of 50 mm², while the cross-section of the exhaust or flue gas channel is of an order of magnitude of 45 m². The channels are approximately 1 m long, and the flue gas channel contains 3 to 4 of such catalytic converter planes.

The renewal of the catalytic converters is extremely expensive, and in particular on the one hand due to the unavoidable shutdown of the power station, and on the other hand due to the procurement and assembly costs of the catalytic converters. The inventive coarse ash separator prevents ash particles of such a size that they can cause a clogging of the catalytic converters. The sieve has an appropriate mesh width. Furthermore, the sieve extends essentially over the entire cross-sectional area of the flue gas channel.

Of great significance is that the sieve is kept in motion by the flue gas stream. The flue gas stream is subjected to constant, slight pulsations that suffice to cause the desired movements or vibrations of the sieve. Added to this are strong changes of the flue gas stream, if, for example, the load of the power station is managed.

The movements of the sieve lead to a shaking-off of the coarse ash particles that have adhered to the sieve surface. In this connection, it is particularly advantageous to define the rest position of the sieve by a stop that from time to time abruptly stops the restoring movement of the sieve. The thereby produced impact also allows those particles to disengage that have become relatively fixedly caught in the sieve.

The sieve can be disposed perpendicular to the direction of flow of the exhaust or flue gas stream or can also be disposed at an angle thereto. The force of a spring can be utilized as the restoring force. Generally, it would be more advantageous to use the force of gravity as the restoring force. The sieve can also be elastically anchored in the flue gas channel, whereby the restoring force is produced by the hinged mounting of the sieve. The sieve can be hinged or otherwise connected in the interior of the flue gas channel at the bottom, at the side, or also at the top.

5 In the last-mentioned case, it is particularly advantageous when the section of the flue gas channel in which the coarse ash separator is disposed extends essentially horizontally, and if the sieve of the coarse ash separator is hingedly suspended. This represents a very simple and effective construction, whereby the force of gravity provides the restoring force.

10 In this connection, the stop that defines the rest position of the sieve can be offset downstream relative to the hinged suspension of the sieve. This means that in its rest position the sieve assumes a certain inclined position, and that during the return oscillation or pivoting, the sieve already strikes the stop before it reaches a vertical position. The cleaning effect due to the de-scaling or beating of the sieve is thus
15 particularly intensive.

The features of patent claim 5 characterize an approach of the stated object that can be utilized independently of the previously discussed approach, preferably, however, together with the previously discussed
20 approach. The folds of the sieve, which extend essentially parallel to one another, effect a drastic enlargement of the sieve surface and thus offer the possibility of being able to make the sieve openings relatively

small. It was found that the critical size of the coarse ash particles begin at about 5 mm. Thus, the size of the sieve openings is preferably selected to be about 5 mm x 5 mm. In addition to this purely sieve effect the formation of folds additionally effects an increased self-cleaning of the sieve. The particles strike the sieve surface at an angle, so that their movement has a component that is parallel to the sieve surface. This counteracts the tendency of the particles to become caught in the sieve openings. Added to this is the fact that also the exhaust gas stream experiences a certain deflection and turbulence, which also enhances the self cleaning effect.

The important thing is that the folds of the sieve be directed upstream, and that the sieve itself have an orientation that allows the particles to fall out of the sieve folds. Whether flow to the sieve is at right angles or at an angle, and whether the sieve is disposed in a horizontal, a vertical or an inclined flue gas channel, play no role in this regard.

The folds of the sieve can be bulged. However, it is more advantageous for the folds of the sieve to be formed by planar surface sections that are disposed at an angle relative to one another. This precludes the particles from striking certain sieve surface regions essentially at right angles.

It is proposed pursuant to a further development of the invention that the surface sections of the sieve rest against support networks or meshes that are disposed downstream. This prevents the sieve from buckling. As mentioned, the dimensions of the sieve openings are 5 mm x 5 mm, whereby the wire of the sieve has a diameter of 1 mm. The support mesh, on the other hand, preferably has a mesh size of 33 mm x 33 mm and in particular at a wire thickness of about 3 mm. It was found that at these dimensions an increase of the pressure loss due to the support mesh is minimal, and that on the other hand the sieve is held very reliably.

A particularly straightforward construction results when the surface sections of the sieve, and the pertaining support mesh, are drawn onto frames that are secured to a support structure. If wear or other damage occurs, the frames can be individually replaced or exchanged.

Pursuant to an important further development of the invention it is proposed that the section of the flue gas channel that contains the coarse ash separator follow an ash funnel, and that the coarse ash separator be disposed at the transition from the ash funnel to the section of the flue gas channel. As a result, all of the ash particles that

drop off from the sieve of the coarse ash separator pass directly into the ash funnel, and pass into the regular removal path for the ash.

The invention will be explained in greater detail subsequently with the aid of a preferred embodiment in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a schematic illustration of a coal-fired power station;

Figure 2 shows a module of a pertaining catalytic converter for reducing the NO_x level;

Figure 3 shows a partial view of the units or baffles of a pertaining, regenerative preheater;

Figure 4 shows in a very schematic illustration a horizontal cross-sectional view through a sieve of a coarse ash separator;

Figure 5 shows a rearward view of the sieve of Figure 4;

Figure 6 shows the detail "A" of Figure 4 in an enlarged scale.

The coal-fired power plant or station of Figure 1 is provided with a boiler 1 having a combustion chamber or firebox 2 for a dry firing, whereby an ash funnel 3 adjoins the combustion chamber 2. The boiler 1 furthermore includes heat exchangers 4, with a further ash

funnel 5 adjoining the housings of the heat exchangers. The boiler 1 is connected via a flue gas channel 6 with a catalyzer or catalytic converter 7 for reducing the NO_x level. The latter has a plurality of catalyzer stages 8 that are respectively composed of modules 9 (see Figure 2). The dimensions of the channels formed by the modules 9 are 7.1 mm x 7.1 mm x 1000 mm.

Adjoining the catalytic converter 7 is an air pre-heater 10 that operates regeneratively and the units or baffles of which can be seen from the half illustration of Figure 3. Following this are an electrostatic filter 11, an induced-draft blower 10 and a REA (flue gas desulfurization unit) scrubber 13, from which the cleaned flue gases pass into a chimney 14.

The flue gas channel 6 follows the ash funnel 5 via a horizontal section 15. Provided at the transition point is a coarse ash separator 17, which includes an oscillatingly suspended sieve 17 as well as a stop 18 that defines the rest position of the sieve 17.

During operation of the power station, the flue gas stream imparts oscillating movements to the sieve 17 of the coarse ash separator 16, and in particular due to the pulsations in the constant exhaust gas

stream as well as due to changing throughputs occurring with changes in load. The oscillating movements cause coalesced or sintered coarse ash particles that are caught on the sieve 17 to fall off therefrom and to pass into the ash funnel 5. This effect is enhanced in that the sieve 17 from time to time strikes against the stop 18, which leads to the flinging off of the particles. In this way, the channels of the catalyzer stages 8 are protected from the penetration of coarse ash particles (> 5 mm) that could otherwise accumulate in the channels and could clog them. At the same time, the air pre-heater 10 is protected.

The horizontal cross-section of Figure 4 shows that the sieve 17 is comprised of planar surface sections 19 that are disposed at an angle to one another. These sections form folds 20 that are directed against the direction of flow. The coarse ash particles thus strike the surface sections 19 at an angle and are withdrawn parallel thereto. This avoids the tendency for the ash particles to become caught in the sieve openings. Furthermore, the folded configuration of the sieve 17 increases the passage surface thereof, so that without an increase of pressure loss it is possible to operate with relatively small sieve openings.

Figure 5 shows that the surface sections 19 of the sieve 17 are drawn onto frames 21 that are secured to a support structure 22 and that can be individually replaced or exchanged. As can be seen from the rearward view of Figure 5, the support structure 22 is disposed on the downstream side of the sieve 17.

As explained in conjunction with Figure 1, the sieve 17 is oscillatingly suspended in the section 15 of the flue gas channel 6. Suspension elements 23, which are illustrated in Figure 5, serve for this purpose.

It is evident from the detailed view of Figure 6 that the surface sections 19 of the sieve 17 respectively rest upon a support network or mesh 24 and together therewith are drawn onto the respectively pertaining frame 21. While the sieve openings have the dimensions 5 mm x 5 mm at a wire diameter or thickness of 1 mm, the mesh size of the support mesh is 33 mm x 33 mm at a wire diameter of 3 mm. The support mesh 24 prevents a buckling of the pertaining surface section 19 of the sieve 17.

Modification possibilities are readily within the scope of the invention. Primarily, with an oscillating suspension, the sieve can have a planar configuration or, with a folded configuration can be rigidly disposed in

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the flue gas channel, although the described combination of these features is particularly advantageous. Instead of the oscillating suspension, any other securement possibilities can be provided, even those where the return force is provided not by the force of gravity, but rather by the force of a spring or an elastic hinged connection. The use of counter weights is likewise possible. The stop that defines the rest position can effect a pre-deflection of the sieve. Although the structural configuration of Figs. 5 and 6 is particularly advantageous, it can also be readily modified.

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